II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-54 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 17, 29, 34, 46, and 54 are independent.

Applicant has added new dependent Claims 55-58 to afford himself a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. The new claims are fully supported in the specification (see the paragraph bridging pages 5-6 of the specification), and are believed to be allowable for the reasons to be developed below.

Claims 4, 6, and 8 have been amended to overcome the objections thereto.

Claims 1-54 were rejected as being unpatentable over Furukawa, for the reasons discussed on pages 3 - 8 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverses all art rejections.

The process described in Furukawa is fundamentally different than that used in the process described and claimed in the subject application. Furukawa is based on a well know system of "adding" or "x-oring" plaintext with random data. The most typical example of such processes being the Challenge/Response Protocol, CHAP. In contrast, the presently

- 18 -

claimed invention requires an identifier to be **randomly interleaved** with the random. Mathematically and functionally, these two processes are entirely distinct. For example:

Adding Data:

"ABC" + (Random("4RE")) = "QWX", which is then encrypted or hashed -> "8DR"

Randomly Interleaving Data:

"ABC" + (Random("4RE")) = "BER4AC" which is sent.

Note that in the randomly interleaved data, the original data "ABC" is still visible, but only knowable to one who already knew it. Also, the random values are also visible. An advantage of the randomly-interleaved approach is that machines can perform Furukawa-type scrambling with no difficulty, but people cannot; while an individual can easily carryout the randomly-interleaved process. Accordingly, the salient claimed features of the present invention are nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
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